When the Silhouette Was Popular

A Sketch of Washington's Time

By WALTER J. JANES

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WASHINGTON.

IN Washington's day there was no such art as photography to preserve the likenesses of the great and the humble. But for the painters of portraits in oil the features of the Father of His Country and of the other important figures of his time would have been lost to posterity. There existed, however, one poor makeshift or substitute for the photograph. That was the silhouette. Washington, Franklin, Jefferson, Thomas Paine and other illustrious builders of the republic are preserved to us in silhouette, and, even though there had been no painters to portray their lineaments, these simple makeshifts would have given us a fairly adequate representation of their profiles.

The silhouette itself is scarcely older than the American republic. It originated in 1757. Etienne de Silhouette, a Parisian banker, was responsible for both the name and the thing. Personally, however, he had nothing to do with it. The good monsieur was made minister of finance for the French monarchy in 1757. Finances were in a very bad condition. Foolish war and incompetent ministers, not to speak of inordinate extravagances throughout the king's court, had reduced France to a pitiable state.

MADISON.

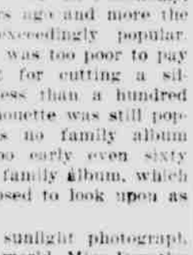
Banker Silhouette was called to the financial ministry in the hope of solving the problem of extricating France from her poverty. He was wise and prudent. He believed in saving rather than in extravagance. He urged economy upon all the king's courtiers, as well as upon the government officials. This was too much for the reckless, plunging aristocracy. The high fliers of French society laughed loud and long, and they determined to carry out M. de Silhouette's advice by a resort to burlesque. Accordingly they economized by wearing coats without folds or ruffles, using snuff-boxes made of plain wood and wearing hats without rosettes. Those who had been patronizing portrait painters turned to the "shadow picture" in sheer ridicule. The shadow picture was the profile cast by the subject on a wall by a certain arrangement of the lamps. The tracing of this shadow outline and its cutting out in black paper and pasting over white paper resulted in a profile likeness. Later some "artists" grew so proficient that they could cut profiles without the aid of the shadow tracing, making them life size or in miniature at will. These pictures were called silhouettes, being "a la Silhouette" because they represented strict economy.

PAINE.

A hundred years ago and more the silhouette was exceedingly popular. Scarcely anybody was too poor to pay a strolling artist for cutting a silhouette. Much less than a hundred years ago the silhouette was still popular. There was no family album then. It was too early even sixty years ago for the family album, which now we are disposed to look upon as old fashioned.

The very first sunlight photograph ever made in the world, Miss Dorothy Catherine Draper of New York being the subject, was taken by Professor John W. Draper in 1840, and it was nearly twenty years thereafter before photography became really practicable. Thus the modest silhouette remained what may be termed the poor man's picture until times well within the memory of many persons now living.

Today the silhouette is merely a curiosity. At some of the summer resorts, at county fairs and expositions an occasional silhouette artist may be found, rapidly cutting the profile of your sweetheart or yourself for a small fee. He probably knows little or nothing of the history of the silhouette, and the pretty maiden who merrily accepts and treasures her profile in black on a white ground as a "souvenir" of the occasion is unaware that such great men as Washington and Jefferson actually "sat" seriously for their silhouettes generations before the amateur photographer infested the earth, with his propensity for taking snapshots at everything, from a pug pup to a president.



JEFFERSON.

Weems *and the* Cherry Tree Tale

George and *the* Hatchet Episode

By ROBERTUS LOVE

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REV. M. L. WEEMS.

FOLLOWING is the original cherry tree and hatchet story, faithfully copied from the 1809 edition of Parson Weems' "Life of George Washington, With Curious Anecdotes, Equally Honourable to Himself and Exemplary to His Young Countrymen." The author prefaces the anecdote with a brief paragraph, in which he says "it is too valuable to be lost and too true to be doubted." The famous story begins on page 13 of the book. An old woman tells it.

"When George," said she, "was about six years old, he was made the wealthy master of a *hatchet!* of which, like most little boys, he was immoderately fond; and was constantly going about chopping every thing that came in his way. One day, in the garden, where he often amused himself hacking his mother's pea-sticks, he unluckily tried the edge of his hatchet on the body of a beautiful young English cherry-tree, which he hacked so terribly, that I don't believe the tree ever got the better of it. The next morning the old gentleman, finding out what had befallen his tree, which, by the way, was a great favorite, came into the house; and with much warmth asked for the mischievous author, declaring at the same time, that he would not have taken five guineas for his tree. Presently George and his hatchet made their appearance. '*George*,' said his father, 'do you know who killed that beautiful little cherry tree yonder in the garden?' That was a *tough question;* and George staggered under it for a moment; but quickly recovered himself; and looking at his father, with the sweet face of youth brightened with the inexpressible charm of all-conquering truth, he bravely cried out, I can't tell a lie, Pa; you know I can't tell a lie. I did cut it with my hatchet.' 'Run to my arms, you dearest boy,' cried his father in transports; 'run to my arms; glad am I, George, that you have killed my tree; for you have paid me for it a thousand fold. Such an act of heroism in my son is worth more than a thousand trees, though blossomed with silver, and their fruits of purest gold.'"

Is the immortal cherry tree story true or untrue? To believe or not to believe—that is the question. So far as the fair fame of George Washington is concerned, it does not matter an iota. That is fixed, a star of the first magnitude. Doubtless there are many good persons who trust fondly that little George hacked the tree with his hatchet and owned up. On the other hand, there are many equally good persons who, preferring to look upon Washington as a man rather than as a divinity and as a real boy rather than as an angel child, deep down in their hearts desire to believe that George never owned a hatchet, that there never was a cherry tree in Papa Washington's garden and that the hacking was a incubration of a hack writer.

We know who first published the story. "Parson" Weems, Rev. Mason Locke Weems, one of Washington's earliest biographers, did that. But it seems that the story did not appear until the fifth edition of the parson's book, which was first published in 1800, two years after Washington's death, under the quaint title of "A

"HE UNLUCKILY TRIED THE EDGE OF HIS HATCHET ON A YOUNG CHERRY TREE."

History of the Life and Death, Virtues and Exploits of General George Washington, Faithfully Taken From Authentic Documents."

Why, asks the prying critic, to whom no secular history is sacred, did not Mr. Weems include the several boyhood anecdotes in his first and other early editions? You may reply that perhaps he had not heard of the stories at that time. But the context of the book itself dispenses with that argument. Parson Weems distinctly states that both the cherry tree story and another anecdote showing the little George's goodness of heart, which also he relates, were told to him by an aged lady twenty years before the date of writing. This lady, he said, was a distant relative of the Washingtons and spent much time during girlhood at the family home [illegible] Fredericksburg, Va., where [illegible] orchard that grew the tree that was hacked by the hatchet that George had—if he had it.

George Washington was born in 1732. The hatchet incident, happening when he was six, must date from 1738. Nearly seventy years passed before it got into print, yet for thirty years Washington had been a famous character. One is inclined to ask why Parson Weems didn't use the story in his earlier editions, since he says he had known it for twenty years. Moreover, why didn't he tell us the name of this distant kinswoman of Washington, since by his own admission he was writing the life of the "greatest man that ever lived?" Historians who write actual facts are eager to give authorities for their statements.

In his first edition the parson declared, right on his title page, that the matter of the book was "faithfully taken from authentic documents." When the several stories were inserted, however, we find the title page alluding to "curious anecdotes," with the reference to faithfulness and authentic documents altogether eliminated.

It is unfair to Parson Weems, however, to place him in comparison with historians. He was not a historian. He was an exhorter. In whatever he wrote he made a special plea. He set out with a fixed and definite intention, and, though altogether lacking in literary artistry, he hewed to the line until he reached "Finis." In the case of the Washington book his purpose was to place before the public, particularly before young Americans, a picture of a St. Washington, idealized, haloed, aureoled, until very few attributes merely human were left. He succeeded, and his work pleased the public of his day and for many years thereafter. More than seventy editions of Weems' "Washington" were published during the nineteenth century. In 1837 Joseph Allen of Philadelphia purchased the copyright and brought out the "twenty-seventh edition, greatly improved," though Mr. Weems had been dead since 1825.

It can do no harm to give a brief account of Parson Weems' life. As the anecdotal biographer of Washington he is almost as interesting as John-

"GEORGE, DO YOU KNOW WHO KILLED THAT BEAUTIFUL CHERRY TREE?"

son's Boswell. He was born in Maryland about 1760, studied medicine, but gave it up to go to England and prepare himself for the Episcopal ministry. It appears that he found no bishop in London to admit him to holy orders. Returning to America, he was still worse off, as there was no Anglican bishop in the new world at that time. However, he finally became a preacher, though it is said that he cared little for creed, being willing to preach in a church of any denomination. He appears never to have held a regular rectorate. When he was about thirty years old, he became a book agent, selling books through Virginia for Matthew Carey, the Philadelphia publisher. He also began writing books himself and peddled his own works. The Washington life in particular had a great sale.

Parson Weems had a reputation as an amateur comedian and as one of the best fiddlers in Virginia. When he had no opportunity to exhort through sermons, he diverted the people through music and amusing antics. He was, it appears, a stern moralist and in many respects an admirable character, a credit to his period. As an author Mr. Weems cannot withstand the fierce light that beats upon literary criticism. His life of Washington is full of exclamation points and dashes, and in this respect, but assuredly in no other, it resembles Carlyle's "French Revolution." The whole book is filled with the kind of matter which an earnest, devout evangelist of his period might talk to a Sunday school class or preach from the pulpit. Long passages moralizing on incidents in Washington's career are sandwiched between the incidents.

Parson Weems was a prodigious producer. One of his own books which he peddled through Virginia was "The Drunkard's Looking Glass, Reflecting a Faithful Likeness of the Drunkard In Sundry Very Interesting Attitudes, With Lively Representations of the Many Strange Capers Which He Cuts In Different Stages of His Disease." Our Sherlock Holmes must infer from the length and burden of this title that the parson traveled about in a very stout buggy. This book had six editions by 1818. Another work was "The Bad Wife's Looking Glass; or, God's Revenge Against Cruelty to Husbands." As this had but two editions up to 1823, we must conclude that the ladies didn't take to it as they did to the drunkard's looking glass. "Hymen's Recruiting Sergeant; or, the New Matrimonial Tattoo For Old Bachelors," was even more popular, for it had seven editions by 1821.

"Snow, Snow, Beautiful Snow"

If you'll look out of your window
On a February night,
I feel sure you will send a welcome
To those ghosts all robed in white.

Their soft dresses are so fluffy
And their dancing takes your eye,
Tho' they make the air seem stuffy,
You can never say, "Pass us by."

Welcome! Welcome! Fairy snow flakes
Yes we are glad to see you here,
Everybody knows you're what it takes
To make a bright New Year.

E. N. D.

Do You Want a Sewing Machine Free?

We will give a fine sewing machine made by the New Home Company absolutely free to the first person sending us one hundred subscriptions to the Press, provided that ten of the names are those of new subscribers, not now on our books. This contest runs one hundred days. All contestants and their lists must be in our office on or before Tuesday April 30th. The Press of May 2nd, will announce the winner and also the second prize from the nearest competitor.

There are 30,000 deserted wives depending upon charity in Berlin. Berlin must be the Chicago of Germany.—Washington Times.

A Stich in Time

will save nine. So will a bottle of Ballard's Horehound Syrup always kept on hand save many a spell of sickness. A sure cure for Coughs, Colds, Bronchitis and Whooping Cough. Mrs S—, Hot Springs, Ark. writes: "I keep a bottle of Ballard's Horehound Syrup in my medicine chest and thank my forethought many times. It has prevented many severe spells of sickness." J. H. Orme.

"I cannot cure you," said Dr. Fox, "unless you promise to do exactly what I tell you. Do you solemnly promise?"

"I do," replied the patient.

"All right. Let me have your check for that old account that has been standing for so long."

Even From The Mountains

Ballard's Snow Liniment is praised for the good it does. A sure cure for Rheumatism and all pains. Wright W. Loving, Grand Junction, Colo., writes "I used Ballard's Snow Liniment last winter, for Rheumatism and can recommend it as the best Liniment on the market. I thought at the time I was taking down with this trouble that it would be a week before I could get about, but on applying your Liniment several times during the night, I was about in 48 hours and well in three days." J. H. Orme.

Sandy Pikes—What did the kind lady say when you told her all dem historical stories?

Gritty George—She said I was a 'wise old saw.

Sandy Pikes—Great hobos! Yer better run. Next thing she'll be expecting you to show up at de woodpile.

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You have more or less trouble with your stomach, your bowels and your liver—everybody does. And when these delicate and easily-disordered organs do get out of order, they are the worst things in the world to you. If you took the right kind of care of them, you wouldn't suffer, but you don't.

The only way you can correct the trouble you do have and prevent these parts from getting out of order is to use

Dr. Caldwell's
(Laxative)
Syrup Pepsin

Everybody knows that PEPSIN is good for the stomach, but in combination with certain plant drugs by DR. CALDWELL'S formula, its natural value is highly increased.

DR. CALDWELL'S SYRUP PEPSIN is the best thing in the world for correcting and curing all forms of stomach trouble—you'll say so when you try it.

DR. CALDWELL'S SYRUP PEPSIN can be obtained in both dollar and half-dollar sizes at all druggists, and your money will be refunded if it fails to benefit you.

Your postal card request will bring by return mail our new booklet, "DR. CALDWELL'S BOOK OF WONDERS" and free sample to those who have never tried this wonderful remedy. Mail your postal today.

PEPSIN SYRUP CO.
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HAYNES & TAYLOR

Chamberlains Cough Remedy a Favorite.

"We prefer Chamberlain's Cough Remedy to any other for our children," says Mr. L. J. Woodbury of Twining, Mich., "It has also done the work for us in hard colds and croup, and we take pleasure in recommending it." For sale by J. H. Orme.

CASTORIA.
Bears the Signature of Chas. H. Fletcher. The Kind You Have Always Bought

Piles of people have Piles. Why suffer from piles when you can use DeWitt's Carbolized Witch Hazel Salve and get relief. Sold by J. H. Orme.

Robbing Yourself

That is just what you are doing when you fail to get regular and sufficient sleep. Your body requires this unconscious period for repair work; without it your nerve energy becomes exhausted, and you are tired, worn-out, nervous, excitable; have headache, neuralgia, indigestion, poor appetite, or other ailments caused by a lack of nerve force. Make it your business to sleep. If you are restless, take Dr. Miles' Nervine; it soothes and strengthens the nerves, and brings sweet, refreshing, life-giving sleep, and gives the organs power to work naturally. Try it to-day.

"I had a severe spell of fever, which left me in a very weak condition and very nervous. I had severe spells of headache and neuralgia, and could sleep but very little. Every effort that was made to recover my strength was of no avail until I began taking Dr. Miles' Restorative Nervine. After I commenced to take the Nervine my sleep was profound and restful, and the pains in my head, as well as the neuralgia pains, left me to a certain extent and I grew gradually better."
MRS. E. E. GILBERTSON,
821 Berylan Ave., Belvidere, Ills.

Dr. Miles' Nervine is sold by your druggist, who will guarantee that the first bottle will benefit. If it fails, he will refund your money.

Miles Medical Co., Elkhart, Ind

War Hero 106 Years Old.

Robert Ambler Bruce, who was born before George Washington died, who saw the meeting between Admiral Decatur and Napoleon at St. Helena, and who is a hero of half a dozen wars, is still living in Richmond, Va., at the age of 106. He entered the navy at the age of 13 to serve in the war of 1812 and was at 15 on Decatur's flagship when it visited St. Helena in 1814. He is a descendant of Pocahontas.

If you are Constipated, dull, or bilious, or have a sallow lifeless complexion, try Lax-ets just once to see what they will do for you. Lax-ets are little toothsome Candy tablets—nice to eat, nice in effect. No griping, no pain. Just a gentle laxative effect that is pleasing and desirable. Handy for the vest pocket or purse. Lax-ets meet every desire. Lax-ets come to you in beautiful lithographed metal boxes at 5 cents and 25 cents. Sold by Haynes & Taylor.

Has Stood the Test 25 Years.

The old original Grove's Tastless Chill Tonic. You know what you are taking. It is iron and quinine in a tastless form. No cure No pay price 50c.

Chamberlains Cough Remedy a Favorite

"We perfer Chamberlains Cough Remedy to any other for our children" says Mr. L. J. Woodbury, of Twining, Mich. "It has also done work for us in hard colds and croup, and we take pleasure in recommending it." For sale by Haynes & Taylor.

Nothing will relieve indigestion that is not a thorough digestant. Kodol digests what you eat and allows the stomach to rest—recuperate—grow strong again. It is a correctives of the highest efficiency. Sold by J. H. Orme.

Chilb's Life Saved by Chamberlain's Cough Remedy

Mrs. John Englehardt, of Gera, Mich., tells of the anxious moments spent over her little two-year-old daughter who had taken a hard cold resulting in croup. She says; "If it had not been for Chamberlain's Cough Remedy she would have choked to death. I gave her this medicine every ten minutes and she soon began to throw up the phlegm. I can recommend it in the highest terms as I have another child that was cured in the same way." Sold by Haynes & Taylor.

"Regular as the Sun"

as an expression as old as the race. No doubt the rising and setting of the sun is the most regular performance in the universe, unless it is the action of the liver and bowels when regulated with Dr King's New Life Pills. Guaranteed by J. H. Orme, Druggist, 25c.

THE ORIGINAL LAXATIVE COUGH SYRUP

For all Coughs and assists in expelling Colds from the system by gently moving the bowels. A certain relief for croup and whooping-cough. Nearly all other cough cures are constipating, especially those containing Opiates. Kennedy's Laxative Honey & Tar moves the bowels, contains no Opiates.

The Red Clover Blossom and the Honey Bee is on every bottle.

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